

Address:

Must be visible.

Contrasting colors from background.

Back-lighted or mounted near a light source.

4" numbers - minimum.

Mount numbers on the front of the home and curb (curb alone is not good enough; may be blocked by cars).

Not mounted on doors or garage doors (not visible if door is open).

Keep trees and bushes trimmed away from address numbers.

Alarm Systems:

We recommend a loud audible alarm that is monitored by an alarm company that will notify the police if an activation occurs.

Alarms can be a great deterrent. Visible alarm boxes, stickers, and signs are encouraged. Why would a burglar select a house with an alarm system when he can select many other homes on the same street that do not have an alarm system?

There are no private alarm systems that are monitored by the Rocklin Police Department. They all use private companies to call the police if an activation occurs.

Make sure to use a reputable company and product.

Make sure the company is licensed to do business in Rocklin. (Call the City of Rocklin Finance Department (625-5020); they can check business licenses status).

Check the Better Business Bureau for company history (443-6843).

Check Consumer Reports or other product quality information before purchasing a system.

False Alarm Ordinance (RMC 3.32) - 3 false alarms are allowed during any 12-month period. An administrative fine of \$31.00 per ½ hour of officer response time can be issued for any additional false alarms.

Make sure the system has a battery back up.

Make sure phone wires are as secure as possible (to avoid being cut).

Some alarms use a cellular calling system to avoid wire-cutting problems.

If you cannot afford to pay a monthly monitoring fee, a loud audible alarm is recommended.

Although silent alarms are available, they may not scare off an intruder. Therefore,

you are depending upon the police to arrive in time to apprehend the intruder, and that may not happen.

A system with a manually activated panic alarm is highly recommended.

Alarms come in many types and costs. Shop around! Get at least 3 estimates from reputable companies.

Available features include window/door contact switches, motion sensors, pressure pads, window tape, glass breakage sensors, audible monitoring, etc.

Dogs:

Can be a good deterrent.

Can create noise problems (and litter problems, too!).

Dogs require care, attention, food, shots, etc.

You can incur liability if it bites someone.

Can be cited for RMC section if it gets loose or you walk it without a leash.

Make sure you have adequate fencing and gates.

Sign issues (a "Dog on Duty" or similar sign is better than a "Bad Dog" sign; for civil liability reasons you should avoid erecting signs that imply that your dog is vicious or mean).

Dog Alarms:

Available at various stores (about \$100); detects motion through wood, glass, stucco, cement, plaster, and produces a realistic barking dog sound; (the motion sensor not does go through metal). Battery and/or electrical operation. Some also have remote sensors.

Doggie Doors:

Not recommended.

Someone may be able to reach inside and unlock the door.

Small person can crawl through the door.

Invites vandalism - (Running a garden hose inside and flooding the house).

Other animals can come in (skunks, squirrels, etc.).

Doors:

Solid core wood is recommended; at least 1 ¾" thick.

No glass within the door (someone could break glass, reach in, and unlock it).

Paint all surfaces and edges (preserves the wood and keeps moisture out).

No glass windows next to door (replace them with polycarbonate, wood, etc.).

Metal doors tend to dent and bend.

Double Doors:

They are weaker than single doors because of their design.

Should have 3 point locking: top, bottom, deadbolt in the center.

Fire Safety:

Smoke detectors are required in every bedroom and hallway.

Also recommended near furnace, water heater, washer/dryer.

Mount one just outside of the kitchen area in case of a kitchen fire; if you mount it too close to the kitchen, you may have accidental activation from normal cooking activities.

Battery operated; check batteries monthly; change batteries when you change the clocks (spring and fall).

Replace smoke detectors when they get old; keep them clean per instructions.

Have a fire extinguisher on each floor.

Fire plan - Where do you meet outside if there is a fire?

Fire drill - Show children how to escape; staying low, escaping from windows, 2nd story escapes, etc.

Have a fire escape ladder in upstairs bedrooms.

Don't go back inside a burning house - Let RFD do that!

Deadbolt issues - make sure you can get out!

Garage Doors:

Most garage burglaries occur because people leave their large garage doors wide

open when they are not inside the garage. Consequently, bikes, tools, sporting equipment, etc., frequently disappear. This is the classic crime of opportunity. You should also be aware that once someone gets into your garage, they can close the door and work on getting into your home without being seen or heard by neighbors. Garage doors can also provide an opportunity for more serious crimes to occur in your home (stranger attacks, sexual assault, etc.). Other garage burglaries occur because side garage doors are left open, are poorly constructed (hollow core), have glass in them, or have no deadbolt/security strike plate system.

Although Rocklin does not experience a great deal of burglaries involving forced entry to large front garage doors, they may happen occasionally.

Manual lift up doors: use padlock/hasp; both sides.

Electric lift up doors (one piece): use padlock/hasp, or a "Gravity Drop" lock into cement.

Don't leave your remote control in your vehicle (it is like a key to your home).

Electric sectional doors: use padlock or pin in door track to stop the rollers. You may also "turn off" the door so it cannot be opened. Check the door to see if it can be forced upward when the unit is turned off. Also, your electric door opener should be the type that changes frequencies automatically so it is not easy for someone with a radio frequency monitor and transmitter to capture your transmitter's specific radio frequency.

Occasionally, one person's remote control may open another nearby neighbor's door. If that is the case, have a garage door service technician change the frequency.

Electric key operated doors: There have been instances where people have squirted water or another liquid into the key hole causing the lock to short out and the door to open! Consult a professional locksmith to remedy this problem.

Any garage door can be secured from the inside with a padlock or similar locking system if you will be away for an extended period of time and desire additional security. Inserting a padlock in the track of a rolling door, for example, will prevent the door from opening. Many roll-up doors come with a factory installed "slide bolt". If you use it, don't forget to unlock it before you use your remote control! You could damage your electric door system if you forget.

Side garage doors: Should be solid wood and have a good deadbolt/strike plate system. Make sure hinges are on the inside.

Garage to home doors: The door leading from the garage to the home should always be kept secured! It should also be a solid door, fire rated with a good deadbolt/strike plate system. Make sure the hinges are on the inside.

Gates and Fences:

Gates should be padlocked. This means an intruder has to climb over a gate or fence to get into your yard. That is a deterrent, and it looks suspicious if someone does climb over. It also makes it difficult for a burglar to carry large items out of

your backyard because it will be hard to lift them over the fence.

Fences should be no higher than 6" (additional lattice work is allowed).

Swimming pools must be fenced at least 5' high with a secured gate that latches (RMC).

Hinges:

They should be mounted on the inside, not outside!

If they are on the outside, you may "pin" them so the door cannot be removed.

Some hinges have non-removable pins.

Use long 3" screws to attach hinges to the door frame.

Key Control:

Don't hide keys outside (under door mats, flower pots, rocks).

Burglars know where to look for "hidden" keys.

Someone may also see you retrieve it.

Give an extra key to a trusted neighbor, instead.

Have locks re-keyed when moving into a new home.

Don't loan keys to repair or housekeeping people.

Landscaping:

Criminals should not be able to hide in your yard, day or night.

Plants should be trimmed up from ground level to reveal "feet".

Trimmed below window level.

Trimmed away from doors, windows, sidewalks, walkways, garages, gates.

Should not provide climbing access to the roof, fence ledge, upstairs windows, alarm boxes, light fixtures, etc.

Can be used as barriers/deterrents (cactus, rose bushes, etc.).

Lighting:

A dark house can attract criminal activity and create opportunities for criminals to

work undetected.

Leave at least one light on outside the front of your home all night.

It is an inexpensive deterrent, and it looks nice, too.

If everyone on the block does it, it creates a highly visible environment.

Do not leave exterior lights on during the day.

Mount lights high enough so criminals cannot loosen bulbs or destroy fixtures.

Mounting a light on the corner of a home will light up both sides.

Lighting should not create a nuisance to your neighbors or motorists (i.e., shining directly into windows - can be a violation of the RMC).

Ground-mounted lights look nice, but are easily damaged.

Motion detectors - can be useful and beneficial (not recommended as the only front light source because your yard will be dark until someone gets close enough to activate the sensor). They are adjustable for sensitivity. Pets can activate them, depending on how they are adjusted and where they are mounted. They are especially useful in side and rear yards.

Photoelectric cells – automatically turns lights on at dusk, off at sunrise.

Timers all available for interior and exterior uses. Lamps on timers; gives the home a lived-in appearance.

Lighting Types:

Incandescent – most regular light bulbs are incandescent; expensive to burn; good color rendition; bulbs don't last very long.

Halogen - about 50% brighter than incandescent; can be a fire hazard because they burn very hot; good color rendition.

High pressure sodium – the best for exterior use; inexpensive to burn, gives off a lot of light, long lasting bulbs, initial purchase may cost a bit more but it is well worth the expense; adequate color rendition.

Low pressure sodium – gray tint; can cause headaches, good for commercial areas or areas where you don't want people to congregate; inexpensive to burn; long bulb life; poor color rendition.

Fluorescent – inexpensive, good replacement for incandescent bulbs, good for interior use, most are not suitable for exterior use because they are affected by cold temperatures; they last a long time; can sometimes cause interference with computers and alarm systems.

Mercury vapor – only fair color rendition; good for exterior use; long bulb life.

Metal halide - similar to mercury vapor; excellent color rendition; pure white; long

life bulbs; good in conjunction with security video cameras.

Locks:

Deadbolt with at least a 1" throw.

Rotating cylinder guard, beveled, 5 pin pick resistant tumbler.

Single cylinder with latch on the inside.

Do not use a double cylinder lock with a key on the inside – Fire Code Issue (Dangerous! - People can get locked inside if the key is removed; People have died in fires because they could not escape) (Replace these locks; if you are not willing to do so, keep the key in the lock at all times when you are home).

Spring latch locks are easily defeated by prying, with a knife, even a credit card (NOT RECOMMENDED!).

Neighborhood Watch Program:

An active Neighborhood Watch Program is one of the simplest yet most effective ways to improve the safety and security of your area. Neighbors who know and watch out for each other are a great crime prevention tool. Please refer to the "Neighborhood Watch" portion of this web site for more information.

Operation Identification:

Engraving, photographing and creating an inventory list of the valuable property in your home increases the chance of recovering your property if it is ever lost or stolen. Please refer to the "Operation Identification" portion of this web site for more information.

Padlocks and Hasps:

Don't buy cheap locks and hasps.

Use devices that are solid one piece, case hardened steel.

Ball bearings, shackle 7/16" thick, heel and toe locking, five pin tumbler.

Key locks tend to be more secure than combination locks (although many of today's high quality combination locks have improved).

Keep the padlock locked even when the gate is open (so no one can steal it or replace it with their own lock when you are not looking).

American 700 series = \$25.00, American 747 series = \$75.00 (good quality locks).

Peep Holes:

Mounted at a usable height for shorter adults and children.

180 degree view.

Mount it the right way (not so people can look inside!)

Radios:

Leaving a radio on when you leave (or placing it on a timer) can be a good deterrent. It makes it sound like someone is home. Install it close to the front door where it can be heard from the outside.

Sliding Glass Doors:

Often a favorite entry point for burglars.

Can be lifted out of tracks, pried open sideways, or smashed.

Install metal shims (or screws) in the top track, on both ends and middle to make it difficult to lift the door up and out of its track.

Install secondary locks at the bottom of the door track; these mount to the floor and insert into a hole that you must drill into the base of the door; be careful not to crack the glass when drilling the hole; do not use key operated locks because they can create a fire hazard; never install these locks on the upper part of a door (hard to see and reach during a fire, and hard to reach for children and shorter adults).

Plastic pipe "dowels" can also be used in the bottom track; they can sometimes be forced out with a knife from the outside; wooden dowels tend to swell if they get damp so they may get stuck in the track).

Strike Plates:

Minimum of 4 screws, 3" in length.

Screws should go well beyond the trim and into the studs.

Key point: Make sure the hole in the wall that supports the deadbolt is deep enough to allow the deadbolt to fully extend into the wall. If it does not fully extend, the deadbolt can be opened with a screwdriver/knife/etc.

Windows:

Sliding – install sheet metal screws in upper track to prevent lifting; install secondary locks that are securely attached to the bottom track; don't use twist type unless you

drill a hole through the track; the twist type tend to fall off.

Crank Out – drill a small hole through latch – insert pin.

Double Hung – drill a hole in top corner of the bottom window to the bottom of top window; drill hole at angle; insert a removable pin to "connect" the two.

Louvered – remove each pane, sand glass and metal frame where they meet; glue glass with Epoxy Resin Glue.

Window Bars:

"Prison-like", NOT recommended; they are expensive; not visually appealing.

Specifications: ¾" solid bars with no more than 6" between bars.

They do provide good security, but they can also be dangerous because you may not be able to escape (or it may take the fire department longer to get in to conduct a rescue).

Windows bars MUST HAVE AN INSIDE RELEASE MECHANISM.

CONTACT RFD BEFORE INSTALLING WINDOW BARS (625-5300).

Window Glass and Alternatives:

If you have standard glass somewhere that is particularly vulnerable (i.e., glass near an exterior door), consider replacing it with a stronger alternative.

Standard Plate Annealed or Float Glass: basic glass, brilliant finish, no distortion, poor security - breaks easily; shatters and cuts.

Tempered Glass: 6 times stronger than standard glass; will shatter into small harmless pieces; some visible distortion.

Wired Glass: will still break; will not shatter with intense heat; no visible distortion.

Laminated Safety Glass: no visible distortion; when broken, it won't shatter and cut.

Acrylic - 17 times stronger than glass; excellent clarity.

Polycarbonate - 30 times stronger than acrylics; excellent strength; some visible distortion.

Vacation Security:

An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar, so make your home look and sound occupied while you are away.

Stop all deliveries or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages. NOTE: Canceling your mail or newspaper could tip off a dishonest mail or newspaper employee that you will be away, so it might be wise to have someone pick up the mail/paper while you are gone.

Arrange to have your lawn mowed and yard maintained while you are away.

Place inside lights on timers so they go on and off periodically during the night.

Have a radio on a timer so it can be heard outside your front door during daytime and evening hours (have it go off when you would normally go to bed).

Hide your garbage cans out of sight. If your garbage cans are empty when everyone else's are full, it is a sign that you are not at home.

Turn the ringer on your telephone down low or off so that people outside your home will not hear a ringing phone go unanswered.

Have a friend or family member park a car in your driveway so it looks like someone is home. You may also leave one of your own vehicles in the driveway.

Leave your blinds and drapes in their normal position on second floor windows (closed on ground level so no one can look inside and view an empty home).

Ask a trusted neighbor to watch the house while you are away. Leave an emergency contact number with them in case they should need to get in touch with you. Give them a key and your alarm access code in case they have to make entry. You may want them to check the inside each day for problems such as broken pipes.